DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Proposed Information Collection; Migratory Birds and Wetlands Conservation Grant Programs

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. This IC is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2011. We may not conduct or sponsor a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: To ensure that we are able to consider your comments on this IC, we must receive them by July 25, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the IC to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 2042–PDM, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail); or INFOCOL@fws.gov (e-mail). Please include 1018–0100 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this IC, contact Hope Grey at INFOCOL@fws.gov (e-mail) or 703–358–2482 (telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract
The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation administers grant programs associated with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Public Law 101–233 and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), Public Law 106–247. Currently, information that we collect for NMBCA grants is approved under OMB Control No. 1018–0113, which expires March 31, 2012. We are proposing to consolidate NAWCA and NMBCA grants under OMB Control No. 1018–0100. If OMB approves this request, we will discontinue OMB Control Number 1018–0113.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants

NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both are competitive grants programs and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute to a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. In Mexico, partners may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States. It supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed $75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the NAWCA Grants Program.

We publish notices of funding availability on the Grants.gov Web site as well as in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. To compete for grant funds, partnerships submit applications that describe in substantial detail project locations, project resources, future benefits, and other characteristics that meet the standards established by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the requirements of NMBCA.

Materials that describe the program and assist applicants in formulating project proposals are available on our Web site at http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA. Persons who do not have access to the Internet may obtain instructional materials by mail. We have not made any major changes in the scope and general nature of the instructions since the OMB first approved the information collection in 1999.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

NMBCA establishes a matching grant program to fund projects that promote the conservation of neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

We publish notices of funding availability on the Grants.gov Web site as well as in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. To compete for grant funds, partnerships submit applications that describe in substantial detail project locations, project resources, future benefits, and other characteristics that meet the standards established by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the requirements of NMBCA.

Materials that describe the program and assist applicants in formulating project proposals are available on our Web site at http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/index.shtml. Persons who do not have access to the Internet may obtain instructional materials by mail. We have not made any major changes in the scope and general nature of the instructions since the OMB first approved the information collection in 2002.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1018–0100.
Title: Migratory Birds and Wetlands Conservation Grant Programs.

Service Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Description of Respondents: Domestic and foreign individuals, businesses and other for-profit organizations; educational organizations; not-for-profit institutions; and Federal, State, local, and/or tribal governments.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.
III. Comments

We invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this IC. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: May 19, 2011.

Tina A. Campbell,
Chief, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service


Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; International Conservation Grant Programs

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. We summarize the ICR below and describe the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This information collection is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2011. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. However, under OMB regulations, we may continue to conduct or sponsor this information collection while it is pending at OMB.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before June 23, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB–OIRA at (202) 395–8066 (fax) or OIRA_DOCKET@OMB.eop.gov (e-mail).

Some of the world’s most treasured and exotic animals are dangerously close to extinction. Destruction of natural habitat, illegal poaching, and pet-trade smuggling are devastating populations of tigers, rhinos, marine turtles, great apes, elephants, and many other highly cherished species. The Division of